

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Martinus Josephus HESTER : STAIRLIFT WITH GUIDE
Dennis VROEGINDEWEIJ :
Serial No. Not Yet Assigned :
Filed Concurrently Herewith :

Pittsburgh Pennsylvania
October 11, 2001

PRELIMINARY MENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert specification headings and amend specification paragraphs as follows. (Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, marked-up versions of the amended specification paragraphs are attached.)

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following headings:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

On page 1, before the paragraph which begins at line 10, please insert the following section heading:

2. Description of the Prior Art

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Similar devices are generally known, wherein the chair on the frame is fixed thereon in stationary manner.

On page 1, before the paragraph which begins at line 26, please insert the following section heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 4, before the paragraph which begins at line 16, please insert the following section heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 4, before the paragraph which begins at line 36, please insert the following section heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-18 and rewrite them as new claims 19-36 as follows:

19. A device for transporting persons along a staircase, comprising:
a frame displaceable along a guide;
a drive to be selectively set into operation for displacing the frame along the guide; and
a chair on the frame on which a person for transporting can be seated,
wherein the chair comprises a seat part and a back rest, wherein at least the seat part on the side directed toward the back rest can be pivoted up and downward in a pivoting movement on a substantially horizontal pivot axis and forms a guide during standing up or sitting down.

20. The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the back rest is connected to the seat part and co-displaces in substantially upright position with the seat part.

21. The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the frame and the seat part are connected to a guide mechanism for guiding the movement of the seat part relative to the frame.

22. The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the back rest and the seat part are connected by means of the guide mechanism.

23. The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the guide mechanism comprises a chair drive.

24. The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the guide mechanism comprises a rod construction coupled by means of hinges.

25. The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein rods in the rod construction are flat and plate-like and fold adjacently of each other into the guide mechanism in a position of the seat part folded down onto the frame.

26. The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the hinges in the rod construction form a parallelogram, of which two hinges lying at corner points of the parallelogram are fixed to the frame in stationary manner relative thereto, and the other two hinge points are coupled to the seat surface.

27. The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein the rods between the two sets of pivot points have a curved form.

28. The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein the back rest is coupled to the two remaining pivot points.

29. The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the guide mechanism comprises a pull rod which is arranged for rotation on the frame at the rear of the seat part and for rotation on the seat part at the front.

30. The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the guide mechanism defines a non-stationary horizontal pivot axis which during the pivoting movement substantially follows the movement in space of pivot points of legs of a user in the pelvis thereof.

31. The device as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a lock to be actuated selectively and acting on at least the seat part, which lock is to be actuated during transport of the frame with the chair thereon along the guide.

32. The device as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a blocking to be actuated selectively and acting on the frame, which blocking is to be actuated to prevent transport along the guide if the seat part is not situated in a position folded down on the frame.

33. The device as claimed in claim 19, further comprising at least one arm rest.

34. The device as claimed in claim 33, wherein the arm rest is connected to the seat part and co-displaces in substantially upright position with the seat part.

35. The device as claimed in claim 34, wherein the arm rest is arranged on the back rest and is connected via the back rest to the seat part.

36. The device as claimed in claim 34, wherein the arm rest is connected to the guide mechanism and is connected via the guide mechanism to the seat part.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a device for transporting persons along a staircase. The device has a frame displaceable along a guide, a drive to be selectively set into operation for displacing the frame along the guide, and a chair on the frame on which a

person for transporting can be seated. The seat may have a seat part and a back rest and optionally at least one arm rest. At least the seat part on the side directed toward the back rest can be pivoted up and down in a pivoting movement on a horizontal pivot axis and forms a guide when the person is standing up or sitting down.

REMARKS

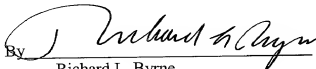
The specification has been amended to place the application in conformance with standard United States patent practice.

Claims 1-18 have been cancelled and rewritten as claims 19-36 to bring the claims into conformance with standard United States patent practice.

Examination and allowance of pending claims 19-36 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By 

Richard L. Byrne
Registration No. 28,498
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10 has been amended as follows:

[Such] Similar devices are generally known, wherein the chair on the frame is fixed thereon in stationary manner.

In the abstract:

The abstract as been amended as follows:

[ABSTRACT] ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a device for transporting persons along a staircase[, comprising:

-]. The device has a frame displaceable along a guide,[
-] a drive to be selectively set into operation for displacing the frame along the guide[;], and[

-] a chair on the frame on which a person for transporting can be seated. The seat [can comprise] may have a seat part and a back rest and optionally at least one arm rest[, wherein at]. At least the seat part on the side directed toward the back rest can be pivoted up and [downward] down in a pivoting movement on a horizontal pivot axis and forms a guide [during] when the person is standing up or sitting down.